



Congratulations!

2016 STATE CHAMPIONS

Choctaw Central

Lady Warriors

PRES Students At Final Harvest Of White House Kitchen Garden

Two students from Pearl River Elementary School (PRES) recently had the opportunity to visit the White House & meet the President & First Lady of the United States.

Fourth graders Rhianon Willis, daughter of Ria Willis, & Ajay Lewis, son of Shavon Willis and Adam Lewis, were invited to work alongside First Lady Michelle Obama picking fruits & vegetables in her final harvest of the White House Kitchen Garden on the south part of the White House lawn on Oct. 6.

Obama made a surprise appearance & talked with the participants.

Also in attendance for the event included:

Kjell Lindgren, NASA Astronaut;

Alonzo Mourning, seven-time NBA All-Star & member of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition;

Ashanti, singer/songwriter & actress;

Sesame Street's Elmo & Rosita;

Donna Martin, RDN, Director, Burke County School Nutrition Program, & President-elect

President Barack ..see HARVEST, pg. 6

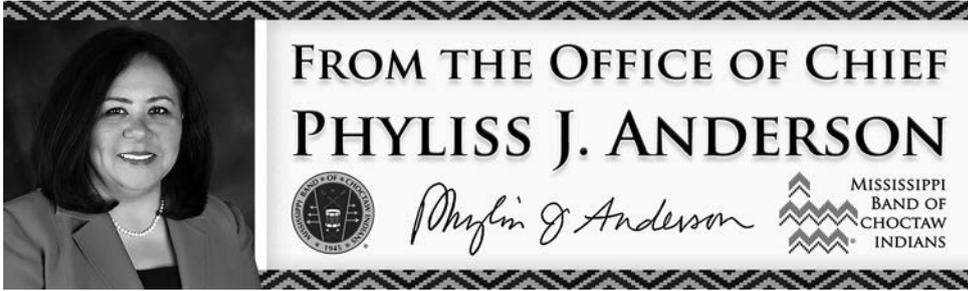


Willis Crowned 2016 CCHS Homecoming Queen

Choctaw Central High School senior Rebekah Willis was crowned the 2016 Homecoming Queen during halftime of the Choctaw Central-Southeast Lauderdale football game on Sept. 30 at Warrior Stadium. Pictured from left is escort/grandfather Kirby Willis, homecoming queen Rebekah Willis & Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.



PRES students Rhianon Willis & Ajay Lewis, along with select students from the Washington, D.C. area, pose with President Barack Obama & First Lady Michelle Obama and special guests during the final harvest of the White House Kitchen Garden on Oct. 6.



Halito!
 The change in the season is a great welcome and I hope everyone is enjoying all of the fall activities happening across our tribal communities. It is nice to experience the milder than usual temperatures, especially the coolness in the early morning and late evening hours.
 Football and cross country seasons have ended, and eagerly we are looking forward to Warrior and Lady Warriors basketball and soccer. It is very true our young athletes get a huge boost from the fans, therefore whenever possible, I encourage you to come out to these events and support our talented student athletes.

CCHS Tailgate
 On Friday, October 21, and kicking off the

last home game for the Warriors, I hosted a tailgate event for all CCHS football fans. It was great to see everyone who came out to enjoy food, fellowship, prizes and fun.
 Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked very hard to make this a successful event. I look forward to hosting this annual event next football season!
Read Aloud Month
 Throughout the month of October, I participated in Read Aloud Month by visiting each of the Tribal elementary schools and reading to students.
 I was greeted very warmly by everyone at each school, and I greatly enjoyed visiting with some of our youngest and brightest Tribal members. My hope is

that we all take time to read aloud to children whenever possible and become great examples for the love of reading and learning.

Breast Cancer Awareness
 Activities were held in October to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month. On October 4, the CCHS Lady Warriors softball team held a Pink Out game during Senior Night. Three breast cancer survivors were recognized and threw out the ceremonial first-pitch to the three seniors on the team.
 On October 7, the Warriors football team held a Pink Balloon Release and Pink Out game to honor the fighters, survivors and loved ones affected by breast cancer. I appreciate the organizers of these activities for their efforts, and thank you to everyone who participated.

Breast cancer is the



Chief Anderson participated in Read Aloud Month during October as she visited & read to a class at each Tribal elementary school.

most common cancer among women in the U.S. and the most frequently diagnosed cancer in the world. Although it is rare, men can also be diagnosed with breast cancer. Early detection and effective treatment are very important in the battle against this disease.
 For more information or questions about breast cancer, I encourage you to contact the Choctaw Health Center's Public Health Services at (601) 389-4110.

ECCC Alumni of the Year
 I was humbled to be honored by my alma mater, East Central Community College, as the 2016 Alumnus of the Year. Fellow Alumnus of the Year honoree

included Prentice Cope-land (Class of 1949) of Philadelphia, and new Athletic Hall of Fame members Lynn Russell Hayes (Class of 1975) of Decatur and Kendrick Clancy (Class of 1997) of Gluckstadt.
 ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart presented each of us a beautiful copper engraved plaque with our likeness that will be displayed on the East Central campus in Decatur, Mississippi.
 A day full of momentous events was planned, ending with the ECCC Warriors Homecoming football game against Hinds Community College.
 My success has been made possible through the support of our trib-
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CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

**COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
 P.O. BOX 6010
 CHOCTAW, MS 39350
 TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565**

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Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.



Chief Anderson poses with the Choctaw Central Cheerleaders during the tailgate event prior to the Choctaw Central-Philadelphia football game on Oct. 21.



Receiving special recognition at East Central Community College's 2016 Homecoming celebration held Saturday, Oct. 15, were (from left) Prentice Copeland (Class of 1949), Alumnus of the Year, Chief Phylliss J. Anderson (Class of 1994), Alumna of the Year, & new Athletic Hall of Fame members Lynn Russell Hayes (Class of 1975) & Kendrick Clancy (Class of 1997). The awards presentations were made at the annual Alumni Luncheon held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. (EC Photo)

al members and by the many opportunities afforded me during my tenure at ECCC. I am so proud to accept and share this honor with my fellow Tribal members.

of his people and shared some of his thoughts and perspectives.

"We have received a lot of support from indigenous people across the world. There is a rising in Indian Country and I feel it's a spirit that has been awakened throughout the world when it comes to indigenous people and indigenous land. I believe it's because of the infringement on our rights. We have always felt like there isn't much we can do but this experience and the unity at Standing Rock has helped me learn there is something we can do. Together we can make enough noise to change and make a difference."

This gathering and the inspiring words of Chairman Archambault are a true testament to the USET slogan "There is strength in unity."

We thank the Chairman for his leadership. This protest is the largest uprising of American In-

USET Conference

The semi-annual United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) conference was held in Cherokee, North Carolina, hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. It is always beneficial to get together with fellow USET member tribes and gain valuable insights on issues and challenges that we face as Native Americans.

At the conference, I was honored to meet the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman Dave Archambault, II. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe continues to lead a peaceful and widely followed protest against the disreputable Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

Chairman Archambault spoke on behalf



Choctaw Central High School hosted events in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness & Prevention Month. **ABOVE**, On Oct. 4, the CCHS Lady Warriors softball team honored cancer survivors Melanie Benn, Louisa Bell & Linda Peoples as they threw out the ceremonial first pitch during Senior Night. **BELOW**, On Oct. 7, the Choctaw Health Center & the Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians sponsored a Pink Out Game to Tackle Breast Cancer event prior to the Choctaw Central-Kemper County football game at Warrior Stadium. All those in attendance were encouraged to wear pink in support of breast cancer fighters, survivors & loved ones taken. Prior to kickoff, a victory line assembled on the field as pink balloons were released into the sky.



dian Tribes in American History and on behalf of MBCI I am proud to have sent our support on this issue. Let's keep the people of Standing Rock Tribe in our thoughts and prayers.

Homecoming

On Friday, September 30th, Choctaw Central High School held its annual Homecoming celebration, which included a parade and a ceremony during the halftime portion of the Warriors versus Southeast Lauderdale Tigers football game. I enjoyed being in the parade and seeing all of the entries on display.

Parade winners included: MBCI Tribal Administration (1st Place) and Choctaw Fire Department (2nd Place)

in the Tribal Program Category; Southern Pine Drum Group (1st Place) in the Non-Tribal Program Category; and Bogue Chitto Elementary School (1st Place), Pearl River Elementary School Princesses and Braves (2nd Place) and Department of Early Childhood Education (3rd Place) in the School/Education Category.

During halftime of the football game, I was honored to crown Senior Maid Rebekah Willis as the 2016 CCHS Homecoming Queen.

Congratulations to the parade winners, and the CCHS faculty and Homecoming Court on a job well done!

Special Olympics Win

Congratulations to the Mid-Mississippi Region of Special Olympics on their gold medal wins in Unified Flag Football and Bocce competitions at a recent event held at Camp Shelby. These teams are a unified group of special education and general education students from Choctaw Central and Leake Central.

Gold medal flag football team members from CCHS are Danta Cotton, Terrance Thomas, Allen Sockey, Demarco Thomas, Jerrick McMillan, Gunnar Tubby and Trevor York.

Bringing home the gold medal in

....see **LETTER**, pg. 4



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary & action taken.

Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed & submitted to the Policy & Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

REGULAR CALL MEETING OCT. 11, 2016

Resolution CHO 17-001, confirming appointments to the Tribal Election Committee, was ADOPTED 16 YES

(*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (*D. McClelland*).

Resolution CHO 17-002, approving FY 2017 Budgets for Choctaw Residential Center Enterprise, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-003, authorizing a Distribution of Tribal Funds, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-004, authorizing the Department of Family & Community Services to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Family Violence Prevention Program, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-005, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI)

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NOTICE

HALITO TRIBAL MEMBERS:

In compliance with the Choctaw Tribal Code §22-3-6, the Tribal Enrollment Office is reviewing enrolled member's files to assure that all required documents are in their files.

Many of our enrollment files were first approved by the Choctaw Agency before our Tribe contracted with the BIA for the responsibility to oversee Tribal enrollment, and the documentation in some of those files was lacking. We have encountered problems with documentation in these older files when we are reviewing new applications that are relying on these prior BIA files.

Tribal membership is a privilege, and our office is committed to making sure all tribal members' files are fully completed so that tribal members receive the highest possible blood degree.

If a required document is absent from your file, you will receive a letter from the Enrollment Officer, Angela Stevens, requesting the particular missing document or documents to be submitted to the Enrollment Office; our office staff will be happy to assist you in contacting other agencies and departments to obtain documents if you request that we do so.

The Enrollment Officer will be sending out letters in the near future. In the event you receive a letter, we ask for your cooperation in getting your file updated.

We look forward to working with and assisting each of you to update your files to ensure that you and your family members receive all rights and privileges afforded to members of our Tribe.

Thank you,
Angela Stevens,
Tribal Enrollment Officer

LETTER continued from page three

Bocce competitions were CCHS students Raven McMillan and Tonya Billie. Proudly, Danta Cotton was also

selected to participate in the Special Olympics "Egg Bowl" in Starkville!

These students have

shown great determination, skill and teamwork, and we are so

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On Nov. 3, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson hosted a Breakfast of Champions event for teams that won their respective sport championships. ABOVE, Choctaw Central special education & general education students who won gold medals in the Mid-Mississippi Region of Special Olympics' unified flag football & bocce competitions were honored. BELOW, The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors slow-pitch softball team were honored for their Class 3A state championship they won on Oct. 22 in Ridgeland.



confirming a waiver of potential conflict of interest, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-006, granting authority to the Office of Utilities Management to construct a new potable water storage tank on certain tract of land in the Bogue Chitto Community, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-007, applying for a 2016 Tribal Energy Development Capacity ("TEDC") Grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, was ADOPT-

ED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-008, applying for a 2016 Energy & Mineral Development Program ("EDMP") Grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-009, approving a site lease for a proposed housing subdivision for Choctaw Housing Authority in the Standing Pine Community, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-010, approving a site

lease for a proposed housing subdivision for Choctaw Housing Authority in the Crystal Ridge Community, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-011, approving the 2016-2017 Wildlife Proclamation to regulate hunting & fishing on Tribal lands, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-012, approving Tribal Enrollments, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-013, approving the relinquishment of membership of a Tribal member, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-014, approving increase in blood degree and/or name change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-015, amending Title IX of the Choctaw Tribal Code, was ADOPTED 15 YES (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chick-away, K. Edwards, R. Henry, Sr., R. Isaac, S.*

Johnson, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 1 NO (*H. Nickey*); 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-016, placing Blackmon & Blackmon, PLLC Law Firm on the list of attorneys authorized to perform legal services for the MBCI, was ADOPTED 15 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-017, requiring the Secretary-Treasurer to execute delegations of authority, was ADOPTED 15 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

very proud of their accomplishments.

I also want to express my appreciation to their wonderful coaches, Amanda Reed from Choctaw Tribal Schools and Kris Upchurch from Leake Central, for supporting these amazing students. Team coaches have worked tirelessly with our students to demonstrate the power of positivity, believing in themselves and working to achieve goals.

This group is truly an inspiration to many and I offer my whole-hearted congratulations!

Softball

Championships

On Saturday, October 22, 2016, the Lady Warriors Slow-Pitch Softball team traveled to Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland, Mississippi, to take on the Mooreville Lady Troopers for the state title. The cham-

pionship was determined on a best-of-three games format.

The first game ended on a close 6-5 victory for the Lady Warriors. The second game was a strong showing for the girls, and they won the game and clinched the championship with a 13-2 victory. Congratulations to the Lady Warriors, Class 3A MHSAA State Champions!

I also commend the Neshoba Central Lady Rockets and the Newton County Lady Cougars for their championship wins. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians celebrates all of these players' dedication, commitment and team work.

CHC Anniversary

I want to congratulate the Choctaw Health Center on its 40th year of exceptional service to our Choctaw people.

Many successes have been accomplished over the years, including a historic milestone last March with the opening of the new Choctaw Health Center facility.

We have also expanded services in many of the departments. But we cannot stop there. I remain dedicated to ensuring that the Tribe continues its efforts to provide the best quality health care for all Tribal members.

Choctaw Community Fund

Once again, we are encouraging everyone to contribute to the Choctaw Community Fund (CCF). You can either make a one-time donation to the fund or donate your "fair share" through payroll deduction. Your fair share amounts to less than one-half of one percent of your annual income.

For example, if you earn \$20,000 a year, your fair share would be a little less than \$2 a week.

When you donate to the CCF, you are contributing money to community organizations such as the Choctaw Veterans Committee and the Boys and Girls Club. Also, funds from the CCF are used to provide assistance to community members in emergency situations, such as the loss of a home due to a fire.

The CCF needs your support, and I hope all of you will do your part in making sure that we raise as much money as we can for this beneficial program.

Closing

I urge everyone to make their preparations for the cold temperatures this fall and winter. I know that it's not always easy to predict

the unpredictable Mississippi weather on any given day. However, we do know that eventually we will have some very cold, sometimes freezing days.

Make sure your heating appliances have been checked, are in good working condition and are being used as intended. Always keep an eye out for our elders and others who live alone and who may need extra assistance.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming holiday activities. We will send out information on these events through Tribal email, website and social media. Thank you to all of you for your prayers and support.

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson

Phyllis J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

Resort Associates Support Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Central Magnolias affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure recognized Pearl River Resort with the Spirit of Promise Corporate award for its continuous

support of breast cancer awareness and research. Resort associates showed their support of the non-profit organization as they donated \$14,053 in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



“It is wonderful how the Pearl River Resort family come together each year in support of this great cause,” stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Resort.



“This is our fourth year having these activities, and I truly admire the love shown to those affected and the outpouring of support in finding a cure.”

Each year, the Resort gives its associates an opportunity to get involved with the activities: “Paint the Promenade Pink” and “Buttons for the Cause.”

During “Paint the Promenade Pink,” hundreds of associates wrote their name, a loved one’s name or a positive message on pink ribbon decals. These beautiful symbols were displayed on the windows of the Silver Star Promenade.

Associates also provided generous donations and received a “Hope. Faith. Cure.” button and shirt during “Buttons for the Cause.”

For more information on Pearl River Resort, call 1.866.447.3275 or visit www.pearlriverresort.com.

HARVEST continued from page one

of the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics;

Al Roker, The Today Show;

Cathy Burns, President, Produce Marketing Association;

Will Allen, Farmer, Founder & CEO of Growing Power;

José Andrés, Chef & Entrepreneur;

Sam Kass, Acre Ven-

ture Partners & Founder of Trove; and

Bill Yosses, Founder, Kitchen Garden Laboratory.

The Choctaw Health Center Diabetes Prevention Program & PRES participate in the **Let’s Move! in Indian Country** (LMIC) project, in conjunction with the First Lady’s **Let’s**

Move! initiative to bring together leaders, educators, medical professionals, parents, & others in a nationwide effort to address the challenge of childhood obesity.

Indian Health Service LMIC Coordinator Gale Marshall (Oklahoma Choctaw) worked closely with the Office of the First Lady & the Special Diabetes Program

for Indians to reach out to the Diabetes Prevention Program & select students for the Kitchen Garden project.

Rhiannon & Ajay not only represented the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, but all Native tribes who participate in the LMIC project. PRES Teacher Assistant Shavon Willis served as chaperone.

They were interviewed by Cronkite News Arizona PBS from the Hopi/Navajo Nation & visited the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Mall, the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, National World War II Memorial, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, & the Department of Interior.

LMIC seeks to improve the health of American Indian & Alaska Native children, who are affected by childhood obesity at some of the highest rates in the country.

To address the health crisis that young American Indians & Alaska Natives are facing, Tribal governments, Urban



Rhiannon Willis & Ajay Lewis are pictured in front of the White House with chaperone Shavon Willis, right, & IHS LMIC Coordinator Gale Marshall, background.



LEFT, Ajay gets a hug with First Lady Michelle Obama. RIGHT, Rhiannon & Ajay are pictured with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell as she led the group on a tour of the West Wing of the White House & the Oval Office.

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Diabetes Awareness Run/Walk Held in Choctaw

The Diabetes Prevention Program hosted their 20th Annual 2 Mile Run/Walk for Diabetes Awareness on Saturday, October 15 in Choctaw.

Participants started and finished at the Choctaw Central High School front gate and ran/walked the two-mile course on Industrial Road in the Pearl River Community.

Overall winners were

(male) Tobiah Ben and (female) Briana Wesley.

First and second place finishers in each age category are listed below.

(Ages 7-Under) Male - 1st, Koi Denson; 2nd, Chaston Johnson; Female - 1st, Iyley Denson; 2nd, Shastyn Lewis.

(Ages 8-12) Male - 1st, Dylan Stephens; 2nd, Christian Davis; Female - 1st, Jaeden Wesley; 2nd, Nataysia Willis.

(Ages 13-18) Male - 1st, Yunish Billy; 2nd, Brison Dixon; Female - 1st, Ashanti Body; 2nd, Nikitta Wallace.

(Ages 19-25) Male - 1st, Jeremy Vaughn; 2nd, Beeman Farmer; Female - 1st, Ashley Edwards; 2nd, Deshayna

Hickman.

(Ages 26-32) Male - 1st, Shane Butler; 2nd, Michael Willis; Female - 1st, Cheriena Ben; 2nd, Shavon Willis.

(Ages 33-39) Male - 1st, Duane Kelley; 2nd, Benny Mitch; Female - 1st, Michelle Tangle; 2nd, Kim Ferris.

(Ages 40-45) Male - 1st, Bruce Jim; 2nd, Jay Wesley; Female - 1st, Jonie Vaughn; 2nd, Priscilla Lilly.

(Ages 46-52) Male - 1st, Gregory Shoemake; 2nd, Ricky Alex; Female - 1st, Marion Sockey; 2nd, Lori Ahshapanek.

(Ages 53-60) Male - 1st, Adolph Vivians; 2nd, Daniel Mittan; Female - 1st, Cheryl Denson; 2nd, Lena Willis.

(Ages 61-65) Male - 1st, Howard Tucker; Female - 1st, Rita Mattera; 2nd, Josephine Morris.

(Ages 66-Above) Male - 1st, Stephen Tubby; Female - 1st, Bernita Reynolds; 2nd, Gloria White.

The event promotes

diabetes awareness across the Choctaw Reservation as participants are urged to become educated on diabetes prevention and management and hopefully overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.

Disposing Of Expired Medication

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency will soon be offering a wonderful service to the Tribe as they will provide a collection station in the Choctaw Health Center where you may properly dispose of medications you no longer take.

There are many reasons not to keep expired medications or medications you no longer take. By keeping expired medications, or medications you no longer use, you may be putting yourself or your family members at risk for harm or even an untimely death.

If you search the Internet by Googling "Accident Death Medication," numerous websites appear. Most of them tell a sad story of someone who accidentally took medications that was not intended for them.

There's another important reason to only keep the medication you are currently taking. If for some reason you end up in the hospital (car accident or other reason), your loved ones can quickly get the information to the hospital to make sure you receive the medications you need. This will help the hospital provide the best care for you.

In addition to getting rid of medications you no longer need, the Choctaw Health Center Pharmacy staff offers a few medication storage recommendations to help make you home safer:

- Store medications in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture, and humidity.
- Never use damaged medication, or medications that have changed color, texture, or smell, even if it isn't expired.
- Always keep medications in their original container. This could be very important if the medication needs to be quickly identified.
- Most importantly, always keep medications out of sight or reach of children.

For more information about medication storage, call the CHC Pharmacy at 601-389-4330.



Pictured above are first & second place finishers in age categories.

Indian Centers, private businesses, youth leaders & the non-profit sector are asked to play a key role by working together to raise the next generation of healthy Native children.

Program goals include:

- Creating a healthy start on life;
- Developing healthy learning communities;
- Increasing opportunities for physical activ-

ity; and

- Ensuring families have access to healthy,

affordable foods.



Rhiannon & Ajay are pictured with NASA Astronaut Kjell Lindgren (left) & singer, songwriter, actress Ashanti (right).



MSMS Partners With CTS for Instruction

Mississippi Math and Science (MSMS) has partnered with Choctaw Tribal Schools to bring Algebra I instruction into the eighth grade classrooms for qualified students based on individual student math data.

This instruction will be provided via interactive, long-distance learning. An MSMS instructor presents a daily 55-minute lesson based on Mississippi College and Career standards and concepts.

Through the use of Polycom technology,

students and school facilitators at Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Red Water, & Tucker Elementary Schools, & Choctaw Central Middle School interact daily with their instructor, Karin McWhorter, to acquire Algebra I skills.

This new technological method of learning will provide students a future opportunity to expand their knowledge by acquiring advanced math skills at the high school level, as well as earn a high school academic credit before entering ninth grade.



Pictured above are several Algebra I students.

CES Tutoring Program

Students at Conehatta Elementary School have the opportunity to receive extra help in Reading and Math through the Title 1 Tutorial Program.

There are certified teachers on campus Tuesday-Thursday of each week to work one-on-one or in small group sessions with students.

Teachers also go into the classrooms while instruction and practice are taking place and are available to assist and reinforce the lesson being taught. This gives teachers the means to give personal attention to students in areas of reading and math.

The goal of the program is to rein-



Kathy Shepherd is pictured working with first grade student Kaydence Jim.

force skills and activities going on in the regular class, which in turn helps students with preparation for the end-of-the-year test.



CES Hosts Visitors

Conehatta Elementary School was visited by students from Lake Middle School & Sebastapol Elementary during American Indian Week celebrations. Visitors experienced a display of Choctaw culture as our students, along with students from Choctaw Central High School, performed traditional dances, songs & drumming. Visiting students were given beaded necklaces, art work that depicted the belt, crown & headdress, & were treated to a sample of fry bread. It was a honor to share our traditions with our visitors.

CES Braves, Princesses

Conehatta Elementary School held its Brave & Princess Pageant during American Indian Week. Winners were, front row from left, Tiny Brave Konley Anderson & Tiny Princess Xandria Wallace; back row, Brave Alarys Johnson, Princess Shantashia John, Tiny Brave Keondrea Anderson, & Tiny Princess Kadriann Farmer.



SPES Princesses, Braves

Standing Pine Elementary School crowned their



Princesses & Braves for the 2016-2017 school year. **LEFT**, Tiny Division winners Khanzlee Richardson & Gabriel King. **CENTER**, Lil Division winners Yazzlyn Alex & Brylas Willis. **RIGHT**, Princess & Brave Brylee Willis & Aiden Alex.

SPES Students Honored

Several students from Standing Pine Elementary School achieved outstanding subject ratings in the 2016 Spring Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP). In math, 3rd grader Brylee Willis & 4th graders Anya Anderson, Cameron Reed, Chloe Wesley, & Nataysia Willis achieved Level 5 ratings. In the Mississippi Science Test, 5th grader Bishop Reed achieved an advanced rating. Not pictured is 6th grader Jaeden Wesley as she achieved a Level 5 rating in MAP language.





SPES Breast Cancer Awareness

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the students & staff of Standing Pine Elementary School honored breast cancer survivors principal Linda Peoples & staff member Terese Breedlove with a celebration featuring banners, posters, letters, songs, & dances. A balloon release concluded the event. Pictured left is Terese Breedlove, left, & Linda Peoples.



CCHS FFA Chapter Officially Chartered

A chapter of the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization & Mississippi FFA Association was officially chartered at Choctaw Central High School on Friday, Oct. 28. The chapter (MS0337) may operate within the rights & privileges as an official entity of the National FFA Organization. Members of this chapter are official active members of both the Mississippi FFA Association & the National FFA Organization. The FFA strives to make a positive impact on the lives of students through premier leadership, personal growth & career success through agricultural education. Pictured above, seated from left, are chapter secretary Xena Willis, FFA state secretary Kayla Mercer, state president Brice Fortinberry, chapter president Madison Dixon; standing, member Allen Sockey, CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon, reporter Merrick Hickman, vice president Cy McMillan, member Josh Hickman, student advisor Talia Guyette, member Dregen Joe, member Kevin Taylor, OTC Principal Liddia Hughes, member Terrance Thomas, & advisor Anna Morrow. Not pictured are treasurer Deeshaya Jefferson, members Anfernee Willis & Terrell Bell.



**NEWS
&
NOTES**

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS**

CONEHATTA UNIT NEWS

Mission Statement:
To inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Upcoming Events

On Wednesday, Dec. 21, the Club will be open 12:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. due to 60 percent day at Tribal Schools. On Thursday-Friday, Dec. 22-23, the Club will be closed. On Monday, Dec. 26 - Tuesday, Jan. 2, the Club will be closed for

the holidays. On Tuesday, Jan. 3, the Club will open their Spring Session. Hours will be from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Youths of the Months

Braylon Smith, 11 year-old son of John & Allison Smith, was selected Youth of the Month for August 2016. He is a sixth grader at



Pictured from left are Youth of the Month recipients Braylon Smith, Sean Wallace, Braylon McMillan, & new staff member Kanyon Jimmie.

Conehatta Elementary School & a Beta member. Braylon is also a member of the TORCH club & volunteers at the club. We appreciate the help he provides to the staff & members of the club.

Sean Wallace, 11 year-old son of Craig & Mindy Bell of the Conehatta Community, was selected Youth of the Month for September 2016. He is a sixth grader at Conehatta Elementary School & is always eager to

help serve snacks to the members. Sean is very appreciated for his efforts to volunteer & as-

sist. Thanks a lot, Sean! Braylon McMillan, see CLUB NEWS, pg. 12



Club members went to Tinseltown Theaters to watch "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children."



Members learned how to make goo at the Mississippi Children's Museum.

Area Teams Bring Home State Softball Titles

Tribal student athletes were instrumental in bringing home state championships to their respective high schools in the 2016 MHSAA C Spire Slow-Pitch Softball Championships on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland.

Choctaw Central claimed the Class 3A title as they swept Mooreville, Newton County won the Class 4A title over West Lauderdale and Neshoba Central won the Class 5A/6A title as they swept George County.

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors (25-5) won their second state title since 2013 as they defeated the Mooreville Lady Troopers 6-5 and 13-2.

“It feels good right now to be Choctaw! For us to come play and win, we are just so happy,” said first-year Lady Warriors head coach Crystal Roach.

“We encouraged the players to be there for each other and it showed. We believed in each other and told them to just play their best and that’s what they did. It was great!”

In the first game, the Lady Warriors took a 1-0 lead at the bottom of the second inning.

Mooreville came back for a two-run lead in the top of the third, but Choctaw Central tied the contest 2-2 to end the third inning.

After a bases loaded sacrifice fly, the Lady

Warriors regained the lead 3-2 at the end of the fourth.

In the fifth, Mooreville tied the game 3-3. At the bottom of the inning, Choctaw Central added three more runs for a 6-3 lead.

Mooreville scored a run in the sixth inning to trail 6-4 heading into the final inning.

The Lady Troopers inched closer with a run in the top of the seventh.

With bases loaded and one out, the Lady Warriors forced the final two outs to secure a 6-5 win.

In the second game, the Lady Warriors opened with a 3-0 lead in the first inning. After three scoreless innings, the Choctaw Central bats came alive with four runs in the fifth and three runs at the top of the sixth for a 10-0 lead.

Mooreville avoided a shutout with two runs at

the bottom of the sixth for a 10-2 deficit.

Choctaw Central added three more runs in the final inning 13-2 to secure their second state slow-pitch championship.

“We knew we could play. In our first game, we felt nervous,” said Roach. “We encouraged them and calmed them down. We knew what our strengths were and we went out and

played.”
The Newton County Lady Cougars (29-6) won their seventh consecutive title and 11th overall by defeating the West Lauderdale Lady Knights in the best-of-three series. West Lauderdale won the first game 3-1 but Newton County came back with 16-13 and 8-3 victories.

West Lauderdale took a 1-0 lead in the second inning until the Lady Cougars tied the game

...continued next page



with a run in the top of the sixth inning. West Lauderdale came back with two more runs to close out the inning and hold on for the win.

In the second contest, West Lauderdale continued the offensive momentum as they scored six runs in the top of the first inning. Newton County came back with five runs to trail 6-5 at the end of first.

After scoring a run each in the second, New-

ton County added seven runs in the bottom of the third for a 13-7 lead.

West Lauderdale had two more runs in the fourth but Newton County added three more runs for a 16-9 lead.

West Lauderdale had four more runs but came up short 16-13.

In the deciding game, after trading leads early in the contest, Newton County came back with four runs in the fifth in-

ning enroute to a 8-3 win.

The Neshoba Central Lady Rockets (28-7) won their fifth consecutive state championship as they defeated George County Lady Rebels 12-1 and 18-17.

George County took a 1-0 lead in the first inning, but the Lady Rockets tacked on four runs in the third, five runs in the fourth and three runs in the fifth inning before the game was called due

to mercy rule.

The second game was much closer as George County took a 1-0 lead at the top of the first. Neshoba came back with three runs in the bottom of the inning to lead 3-1.

George County knocked in five more runs in the second before Neshoba came back with two runs to trail 6-5.

The game was tied 9-9 in the fifth inning as George County added

three runs and Neshoba four.

Neshoba had six runs in the bottom of the sixth to regain the lead 15-9.

George County scored eight runs to reclaim the lead 17-15 at the top of the seventh. Neshoba was yet to be done as they put two in scoring position and Kaylee Routh hit a three-run home run to secure a 18-17 final.

Congratulations To Our Chahta Champions!



**CLASS 3A SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL
STATE CHAMPIONS 2016
CHOCTAW CENTRAL**



**CLASS 4A SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL
STATE CHAMPIONS 2016
NEWTON COUNTY**



**CLASS 6A/5A SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL
STATE CHAMPIONS 2016
NESHOPA CENTRAL**

Choctaw Transportation Guidelines for Health Center Clients and General Public

CHOCTAW TRANSPORTATION IS PROUD TO OFFER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND TRIBAL MEMBERS
 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
601-650-7430/601-650-7372

FOR NON-EMERGENCY/MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION YOU MUST CALL 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE BEFORE 3:30 PM.
 TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER
3:30 PM.

FOR TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS ON MONDAY'S, YOU MUST CALL THE FRIDAY BEFORE.
601-650-7430/601-650-7372

YOU MUST GIVE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, TIME AND DATE OF APPOINTMENT, PHONE NUMBER WHERE YOU CAN BE CONTACTED.

For service complaints
 Call 601-663-7748



DOECE Hosts Green Corn Festival

The 25th Annual Green Corn Festival, sponsored by the Department of Early Childhood Education, was held on Friday, Oct. 14, at the Pearl River

Amphitheater in Choctaw.

The event was established so Choctaw customs would continue to survive and bring about the appreciation of the culture through dance and feasting for the young children and their families.

Flags were presented by the Choctaw Color Guard as all Early Childhood Education children made a grand entrance onto the amphitheater grounds, followed by an invocation by Stanley Bell.

Drummers for the entrance included Terrance Kinsolving, Elijah Ben, Elter Wilson, Craig Anderson, & Stanley Bell.

Pearl River Day Care Center Director Jessica Henry welcomed those in attendance and said it is important to keep traditions alive and to encourage all children to continue dancing.

Guest speaker Pearl River Tribal Council

representative Stella Willis said she was happy to see the revival of cultural knowledge beginning at an early age for these children.

“What we teach these children today in the first five years of their lives is the formative years. We are thankful that while parents work, our children are taken care of and taught the values of our tribe. Let us join together and make sure we keep our traditions alive.”

A total of nine Head Start classes performed several traditional social dances. Serving as chanters were Curtis “Buck” Willis, Jr. & Darien Tubby. Afterwards, the Elderly Program social dancers performed the House Dance.

Pearl River Head Start student Sadie Farve offered the benediction as a traditional meal was served in the Pearl River Community Center.

CLUB NEWS continued from page nine

son of Latilda Jim & Bjoin McMillan of the Conehatta Community, was selected Youth of the Month for October 2016. He is a sixth grader at Conehatta Elementary School & the youngest of five children. Braylon assists staff in various activities at the club. We thank you for all you do, Braylon.

program for the club members.

Club Activities

Mr. Pilgrim, of the Choctaw Tribal Schools, has been visiting the club at least twice a month in the Mobile Resource Center to provide educational games or additional educational assistance to the members.

New Staff Member

We welcome Kanyon Jimmie to our club. He will be facilitating the sports/fitness/recreation

On Nov. 23, several club members enjoyed a field trip to Party Safari in Flowood.



Club members participate in “Park After Dark” at the Mississippi Children’s Museum on Oct. 28.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM 2017 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Requirements:

- Enrolled member of MBCI
- Ages 15-24
- Middle school, high school & college students
- 2.0 GPA (C Average)
- One per family

Applications available at YOP Office!

Deadline: April 13, 2017

For more info, call 601-650-7321

Halloween Fun Events

Halloween was a fun time for children and elders in Choctaw as several activities were held for their enjoyment.

Several hundred children and their families participated in Trunk or Treat events on Oct. 28. The Choctaw Tribal Council hosted their event in the parking lot of their offices and the Department of Public Safety hosted their event in the parking lot of the Smith John Justice Complex.

Tribal elders held their own activities at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center as they held contests for cake decorating, pumpkin carving, dance, and costume.



LEFT, Pumpkin carving contest winners, from left, Dora Nickey & Judy Isaac. Not pictured is Frankie Willis. **RIGHT**, Cake decorating contest winners, from left, Lorena Lewis, Dora Nickey & Gloria Wilson. **BELOW**, Elderly Activity Center participants in the costume contest (left) & the dance contest.



Healthy Family Fall Festival

Children from the Division of Early Childhood Education's Head Start programs participated in the 6th Annual Healthy Family Fall Festival in the Pearl River Community Center in Choctaw on Friday, October 21. The event, sponsored by the Family Violence & Victim's Services, was held in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Various programs and staff members provided fun-filled activities and information for all the children & their parents & guardians. Participants concluded the event with a domestic violence awareness march to the nearby Pearl River Recreation Field for a balloon release.

Employee, Employer of the Year Honored

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program observed Disability Awareness Week Sept. 26-30 to raise awareness of disability issues & celebrate various contributions of workers with disabilities. On Tuesday, Sept. 27, the program honored an Employee & Employer of the Year 2016 at The Occupational Training Center Cafe in Choctaw. Nicola Lewis was recognized as Employee of the Year & Pearl River Resort's Food & Beverage Department was named Employer of the Year. **ABOVE**, Sheila Martin, Executive Director of Resort Operations (center), accepts the Employer of the Year Award on behalf of the Pearl River Resort. Also pictured is Christopher Mesteth, Job Placement Counselor (left), & Mary Lundy Meruvia, Program Director. Not pictured is Employee of the Year recipient Nicola Lewis. Disability Awareness Week activities is made possible by a grant from the Choctaw Community Fund.





Pow Wow/Vigil Held For Domestic Violence Awareness

The Family Violence & Victim's Services (FVVS), in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety, hosted a pow wow & candlelight vigil on Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Pearl River Recreational Field in Choctaw. The event, Break The Silence (Nokchito Ya Loshohlih), was held in observance of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month. At the conclusion of the pow wow, FVVS staff members led a candlelight vigil as dancers, drummers & the audience stood together to end all forms of domestic violence & heal as a sacred community. FVVS serves as a hub for all domestic violence & sexual assault issues on the Choctaw Reservation & provides & coordinates services that promote safety, health & anonymity of domestic violence & sexual assault victims & their dependents. The mission of FVVS is to develop a zero-tolerance attitude among Choctaw people for domestic violence crimes & promote a significant decline in domestic violence & sexual assault crime on the Choctaw Reservation. For more information, contact FVVS at 601-650-1774.

Homicide Victims Honored At Event

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Family Violence & Victim's Services (FVVS) hosted an event to honor the memories of homicide victims & recognize the impact homicide has on surviving family members and loved ones.

On Thursday, Sept. 29, families of homicide victims gathered at the Pearl River Community Baptist Church in Choctaw to observe

the National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims.

FVVS therapist Kim Neal welcomed families and offered the opening prayer.

A proclamation was read stating FVVS is collaborating with officials to remember the tragedy of homicide, honor the courage of survivors and vow to help survivors rebuild

...continued next page



Pictured from left are Kim Neal of FVVS & Beth Henry of Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter.



Community Law Day held Oct. 27

The Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation and Choctaw Legal Defense presented Choctaw Community Law Day, "Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges Through Legal Education" on Oct. 27 at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw. Dozens of participants received valuable legal information in several sessions pertaining to children & family services, consumer protection, power of attorney/conservatorship, adoption changes, probate/administration of estate (will), bankruptcy, & blood quantum/enrollment issues.

REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY

Wetip inc.

Call 1-855-4-THE REZ (1-855-484-3739) or visit www.wetip.com

CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Theft
- Child Abuse
- Vandalism
- Illegal Drugs
- Bullying
- Assault
- Or any other illegal activity

You can call 24 hours a day & report your concern to us. No one will ask your name, you will remain anonymous. Your tip may lead to a **REWARD, up to \$1,000!**

Prevent Elder Abuse

Identify It! Report It! Stop It!

Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact Family Violence and Victim's Services at 601-650-1774

their lives.

Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter case manager Beth Henry read the listing of Tribal member homicide victims as candles were lit in their memory. A luncheon was held in the fellowship hall afterwards.

Robert & Charlotte Hullinger, of Cincinnati,

formed Parents of Murdered Children following the 1978 murder of their 19-year-old daughter, Lisa, while she was studying in Germany.

In 2007, Congress designated Sept. 25 as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. The annual day of observance is on the date Lisa was murdered.



Psalms Trio provided special music for the event.



Family members remember their loved ones as candles were lit in their honor & memory.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

DCI partakes in Film Production

The Department of Chahta Immi (DCI), along with officials from the MBCI Office of Public Information, Choctaw Video Productions, & Choctaw Wildlife & Parks, collaborated with Providence Pictures to record a PBS documentary called "Rediscovering America" during the last week of September.

The documentary will showcase the ancient mound building societies of the Americas as the Nanih Waiya cave & mounds are to be highlighted in this special feature.

Several Tribal members were interviewed about the history & cultural significance of the mounds. Choctaw social dances were also recorded at the mound to showcase Choctaw heritage.

Cultural Workshops

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) staff conducted cultural workshops at the Tucker Facility Building in October.

Classes included making sashes & medallions on Oct. 4, headbands & stickball aprons on Oct. 11, Choctaw dresses & shirts on Oct. 18 & 25, & collar necklaces using both bugle & seed beads on Oct. 20.

The Choctaw dress &

shirt making workshop on Oct. 25 was the final workshop held for fiscal year 2015-2016.

The CAP staff will be hosting cultural training workshops for all communities every Tuesday of each month for fiscal year 2016-2017.

The CAP offered a bugle & seed bead collar necklace making workshop at the Choctaw Police substation in the Choctaw community in Henning, TN on Nov. 18. A Thanksgiving feast was held the next day as Choctaw social dances was provided by the CAP.

The following is a tentative cultural workshop

schedule in the following communities for the remainder of fiscal year 2016-2017.

Bogue Homa

Dec. 9, Sash & Medallion Making, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Dec. 14 & 21, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Dec. 28, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Pearl River

Jan. 4, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Jan. 10, Headband & Stickball Apron, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Jan. 17, Sash & Medallion Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Jan. 21, Hog Killing, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Jan. 24 & 31, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making,

see DCI NEWS, pg. 16



The Nanih Waiya Mound will be featured in a PBS documentary, "Rediscovering America."



Jane Tubby, Betty Tubby & Keri Tubby prepare a meal for the production crew & cast.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence (DV) is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.
- On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls, approximately 15 calls every minute.
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.
- 72% of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner; 94% of the victims of these crimes are female.

END THE CYCLE!

If you are experiencing domestic violence you are NOT alone.
Please call us - We Can Help!

(601) 663-7851

24 Hour Crisis Line
or
(601) 650-1774

Family Violence & Victims' Services Program

DCI NEWS continued from page fifteen



CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER
featuring
CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER
Choctaw Shopping Center
Highway 16 West
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-650-1687
www.choctaw.org

HOURS OF OPERATION
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

ADMISSION
GENERAL ADMISSION \$5
EDUCATION DISCOUNT \$5
MILITARY DISCOUNT \$5
TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID \$2
SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE) FREE
CHILDREN (UNDER 5) FREE



Pictured are participants beading collar necklaces at the Tucker Facility Building. (Photo by Greg Jones)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | 3:30 p.m. |
| Crystal Ridge | Apr. 11, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 1, Sash & Medalion Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Apr. 13, Headband & Stickball Apron, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 7, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Apr. 18 & 25, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 15, Headband & Stickball Apron, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Conehatta |
| Feb. 21 & 28, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | May 2, Sash & Medalion Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| Princess & Warrior Survival Week will be held in March, location to be determined. | May 9, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| Standing Pine | May 16, Headband & Stickball Apron, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 4, Sash & Medalion Making, 9:00 a.m.- | |



On Friday, Sept. 29, Casey Bigpond, Ken Frazier, Garrison Joe, Shandahl Hickman, & Rowena Willis presented Choctaw cultural activities for the Madison Avenue Lower Elementary School in Madison during an event called "My Mississippi." Bigpond, Hickman & Willis demonstrated the Choctaw drum & provided a miniature drum making activity for the students. Pictured above, Ken Frazier (left) & Garrison Joe gave a presentation on stickball sticks.



Participants thin out the shell for their drums.

- | | |
|---|---|
| May 24 & 30, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | a.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| Bogue Chitto | Sept. 12 & 19, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| Aug. 1 & 8, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Sept. 26, Headband & Stickball Apron, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| Aug. 15, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Sept. 28, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Neck-lace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| Aug. 22, Headband & Stickball Apron, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Anita Winstead will be present at particular classes for those who may need to purchase beads or fabrics. |
| Aug. 29, Sash & Medalion Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | All interested parties are invited to the workshops to learn, share |
| Red Water | |
| Sept. 7, Sash & Medalion Making, 9:00 | ...continued next page |



The CAP staff participated in Fall Fest, sponsored by Natural Resources, on Oct. 26. The staff enjoyed giving out treats to Choctaw Tribal Schools' students. Pictured, from left, are Phyllis McMillan, May McGeisey, Casey Bigpond, Trudy Jimmie, & Lorena Alex.

Protect Yourself from Medical Identity Theft

*Submitted by
Susan Cosgrove, Area
Extension Agent, Family
Resource Management*

Medical identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information (name, Social Security number, health insurance or Medicare number) to obtain medical care.

Exactly what the thief gets with your information may range from fake billing claims, drugs, to expensive equipment.

Unfortunately, it is also happening when someone working in a medical setting uses another person's information to submit false bills to insurance companies.

According to the fifth annual study on medical identity theft by the Ponemon Institute, published in 2015, medical identity theft incidents have increased 21.7 percent since the 2014 study.

Medical identity theft is a serious concern for

patients, health care providers & health plans. Health care providers & insurers are asking how they can minimize the risk & help their patients if they are victimized.

What if an identity thief tampered with your chart, & now it has the wrong allergen or blood type listed? This can be a matter of life or death.

Today, more of our medical information is digitized by health care providers. So this is now the target of computer

& network hackers that break into these electronic records & steal this valuable data.

Everything a thief needs is in our medical records – our Social Security number, health insurance numbers, address, phone number & our name. All of this information can be used to order goods & services (that are NEVER delivered) & bill them to Medicare & Medicaid.

These thieves can also corrupt medical records with erroneous information that can lead them to incorrect diagnosis & treatments which impacts the entire health care system. Medical identity theft is now the fastest growing crime in our country.

Recent estimated of

annual medical fraud in the U.S. range from \$80 billion to \$230 billion. Twenty-nine percent of victims do not find out about the identity theft until a year or later with 75% of victims finding it difficult to resolve these issues.

Sixty-five percent of victims paid an average of \$13,500 to resolve the crime. Victims spend an average of 200 hours correcting their compromised data.

How would you know if you are a victim? Victims may:

- Find erroneous listings of office visits or treatments on their medical EOB (explanation of benefits).
- Be told by their health plan that they have reached their limit on benefits, but they

.....see THEFT, pg. 18

information & have fun. Dates & times are subject to change. Please mark your calendar & make plans to attend!

formed an exhibition of Choctaw dances for the audience.

Choctaw Expressions At Mississippi Children's Museum

The Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) set up cultural exhibits in the interior halls of the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson in observance of Native American Heritage Month.

Choctaw Expressions, coordinated by DCI

Director Jay Wesley, was held at the museum from Nov. 1-5. The CAP gave presentations on stickball as they displayed stickball items, handed out information & showed stickball videos to the public.

Dance groups from the Choctaw Tribal Schools (Tucker, Standing Pine, Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, & Red Water Elementary Schools) also performed Choctaw dances for those in attendance.

Drum Workshop

The *Alhipa Chitto (Drum) Ikbi* workshop, under the guidance of CAP's Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond, was held at the Pearl River Community Dance Ground on Oct. 13. The cultural activity was hands-on-training sponsored by the CAP & funded by the MBCI Tribal Administration.

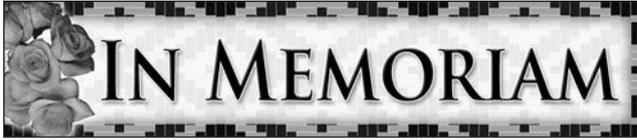
Presentation At Ole Miss

Casey Bigpond, Garrison Joe, Dustin Isaac, & Rosemary John traveled to the University of Mississippi in Oxford for a Choctaw Culture Review & Choctaw Stickball Presentation. Members of Choctaw Central High School's dance group, coordinated by Elter Wilson, per-



Standing Pine Elementary School dancers enjoy a video of a stickball game prior to their performance at the Mississippi Children's Museum.

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians 2016-2017 Hunting and Fishing Seasons		
Hunting Season		Bag Limit
(A) Bobwhite Quail	11/24/16 – 03/04/17	8/day; 16 poss.
(B) Turkey, either sex (Gobbler with 6 inch beard or longer)	10/15/16 – 11/15/16	1/day; 3/fall season
Turkey, Gobblers only (Gobbler with 6 inch beard or longer)	03/15/16 – 05/01/17	1/day; 2/spring season
(C) Squirrel	10/01/16 – 02/28/17	8/day; 16 poss.
(D) Deer – either sex		
ALL BUCKS MUST BE 6 POINTS OR HIGHER DURING THE 2016-2017 SEASON. Exception: Youth less than fifteen (15) years old and elders (56+ years old) may have harvest one (1) buck with any hardened antler, regardless of number of points, inside spread, or beam length.		
Bucks: Three (3) per season, one (1) per day Does: Eight (8) per season, two (2) per day; with additional two (2) allowed with archery.		
Archery Only	10/01/16 – 11/01/16	
Youth Weekend (Gun)	10/29/16 – 11/01/16	
Gun (without dog)	11/01/16 – 11/18/16	
Gun (with dog)	11/19/16 – 12/04/16	
Gun (without dog)	12/05/16 – 12/16/16	
Gun (with dog)	12/17/16 – 01/22/17	
Archery/Primitive/Gun (without dogs)	01/23/17 – 02/12/17	
(E) Rabbit	10/08/16 – 02/28/17	8/day; 16 poss.
Cultural Rabbitstick with dogs	10/01/16 – 03/12/17	8/day; 16 poss.
(F) Fox, crow, blackbirds	No closed season	No limit
(G) Wild hog (No guns in October, Archery Only)	No closed season	No limit
(H) Opossum, raccoon, bobcat	10/01/16 – 02/28/17	No limit
Raccoon only	07/01/17 – 09/30/17	1/nightly; 2 poss.
(I) Frogs	04/01/17 – 09/30/17	25/nightly; 50 poss.
(J) Trapping	11/01/16 – 03/15/17	No limit
1.2 MIGRATORY BIRDS (includes Doves)		
Canada Geese	09/01/16 – 09/15/16	5/day; 15 poss.
White-winged/Mourning Dove	09/03/16 – 10/09/16	15/day; 45 poss.
	10/22/16 – 11/06/16	15/day; 45 poss.
	12/10/16 – 01/15/17	15/day; 45 poss.
Teal	09/10/16 – 09/25/16	6/day; 18 poss.
Rails (Sora & Virginia)	09/03/16 – 11/11/16	25/day; 75 poss.
Rails (Clapper & King)	09/03/16 – 11/11/16	15/day; 45 poss.
Gallinules (Common & Purple)	09/30/16 – 11/11/16	15/day; 45 poss.
Snipe	11/14/16 – 02/28/17	8/day; 24 poss.
Woodcock	12/18/16 – 01/31/17	3/day; 9 poss.
1.4 FISHING	No Closed Season	



BOBBY L. DAVIS

Funeral service for Bobby L. Davis, 61, was held on Friday, September 30, 2016, from the St. Theresa Catholic Church in Choctaw. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Davis passed

away on Sept. 26 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, gardening, watching TV, & caring for animals.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Hayward Davis.

Survivors include his mother, Belfree Willis; father, Francis Davis; sisters, Betty Wilson, Sharron Thompson, Kathy Clemons, & Joyce Cauthen; broth-

ers, Johnny Davis & Jerithan Willis; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

BRADEN SAM

Funeral service for Braden Sam, 31, was held on Thursday, October 6, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Sam passed away

on Oct. 2 in Leake County.

He enjoyed spending time with family & friends & playing basketball & football.

He was preceded in death by infant sons, Daylon Grant Sam & Tyler Brae-Dean Sam; & grandparents, R.B. Sam, Easlin Denson & Lucille Lewis Chickaway.

Survivors include his parents, Bobby Dean Sam & Charlene Denson Sam; sons, Tyrus Sam, Braeson Sam, Zaymien Sam, Braden Sam, Jr., Hunter Sam, & Draeden Sam; a sister, Ariel Sam; a brother, Corey Sam; a companion, Deyonkia Willis; three aunts; four uncles; a niece, & a host of relatives & friends.

GLADYS WILLIS

Funeral service for Gladys Willis, 73, was held on Thursday, October 13, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Rev. George Dixon & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Pine Bluff Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Willis passed away on Oct. 8 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She enjoyed being with family, singing hymns, watching game shows, playing bingo, fishing, & traveling.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tom & Sally Davis Thomas Briscoe; sisters, Mollie Anderson,

Mary Ben & Vera B. Willis Isaac; brothers, Dewey Thomas, Golden Thomas, Singleton Thomas, Amos Thomas, & Woodrow Thomas; & three grandchildren.

Survivors include her daughters, Rachel Willis, Amanda Jefferson & Melanie Willis; sons, Eric Willis & Christopher Willis; a sister, Dora Nickey; 17 grandchildren; four foster children; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MERDIS DENSON

Funeral service for Merdis Denson, 77, was held on Friday, October 14, 2016, from the Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples & Bro. Raymond Johnson, Jr., officiated.

...continued next page

THEFT continued from page seventeen

know this cannot be true.

- Be denied insurance because their medical records show a condition they don't have.

Medical identity theft prevention tips:

- Read the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statement. This may be lengthy & seem complex, but this is very important.

- Confirm what is in the EOB is correct & that it was YOU.

- Request a complete list of payments from your health insurance company annually.

- Keep a small calendar, documenting each date when you are at a doctor's office, lab, hospital, or pharmacy. Document each location/date of health care.

- Be stingy with

your information.

- Learn to spot phishing emails.

- Store your information carefully.

- Never use public Wi-Fi to compromise your personal information.

- Review your medical records for accuracy. Under federal law, you have a right to know what is in your medical files. You may have to pay a fee to get some of your records.

- Shred documents associated with your health insurance you no longer need.

- Get a free copy of your credit report from annualcreditreport.com.

If you are a victim of medical identity theft, take these steps:

- Call the authorities & file a police report.

- Send a copy of police report to your insurer, medical providers & all

three credit bureaus.

- Call your insurance company & report it.

- Request access to your medical records (doctor, hospital, pharmacy, & lab). Correct errors immediately.

- File a medical identity theft complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or call the FTC Hotline (877) IDTHEFT.

- Work with your insurance company & medical providers to clear your name of the charges.

For more details, contact Susan Cosgrove, Area Extension Agent, at 601-635-7011 or email s.cosgrove@msstate.edu. Or contact your county office of Mississippi State University Extension.

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Couchhatta, MS 39057

Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
1st Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Samuel Dixon

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/
Family Ministry Class

*To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32*

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Denson passed away on Oct. 11 at her residence.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Valleria Sockey; & sisters, Jeanette Willis & Delores C. Sockey.

Survivors include her daughters, Sindy Ann Lewis & Sanpella Jefferson; a son, Dudley Denson, Sr.; sisters, Catherine F. Bolin & Sadie R. Wilson; brothers, Elvin J. Sockey & Clyde A. Sockey; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two aunts; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CECIL DIXON

Funeral service for Cecil Dixon, 71, was held on Friday, October 14, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Randall Joe & Rev. John Frazier officiated.

Burial was in the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Dixon passed away on Oct. 12 at his

residence.

He enjoyed gardening, fishing, hunting, making stickball sticks, & playing the guitar. He was a four-time stickball MVP.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jim & Bessie Frazier Dixon; wife, Alline Willis; daughter, Stacy Dixon; sisters, Patsy Robinson & Rosie Hickman; brother, Lewisman Dixon; & a great-grandchild.

Survivors include his daughters, Rosie Dixon, Ashley Stephens, Karen Smith, & Lavina Vaughn; sons, Cecil Ray Dixon, Richard Dixon, Mario Stephens, & Donald Bell; sisters, Winnie Isaac & Louisa Bell; 25 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, relatives & friends.

WILLIAM HICKMAN, SR.

Funeral service for William Hickman, Sr., 61, was held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Fu-

neral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hickman passed away on Oct. 23 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a U.S. Army & National Guard veteran. He enjoyed being with family & playing stickball.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Mullet Hickman & Christine Frazier Hickman; daughter, Chrystal Bell; sister, Lourean Denson; brothers, Dale Hickman & Terry Lee Hickman; & two great-granddaughters.

Survivors include his companion, Louisa Mingo; daughters, Dee Dee Beckwith & Elizabeth Mingo; sons, William Hickman, Jr., Eric Mingo, Jeremiah Mingo, Jason Mingo, & Ricardo Wilson; sisters, Fannie Jones & Annie Hickman; brothers, Willie J. Hickman & Randy Hickman; adopted siblings, Johnathan Hickman & Jessica Hickman; an aunt; uncle; 26 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives &

friends.

ARMAN DURAN JEFFERSON

Funeral service for Arman Duran Jefferson, 31, was held on Friday, October 28, 2016, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jefferson passed away on Oct. 25 in Philadelphia.

He enjoyed spending time with family, fishing, playing washers, basketball, volleyball,

stickball, listening to music, & drawing.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Edmond & Berdie Shoemake, Goldman & Millie Jefferson; a brother, Marcus Jefferson; an aunt & four uncles.

Survivors include his wife, Lisa Jefferson; daughter, Melody Jefferson; sons, Antone Jefferson, Arman Jefferson, Jr., Carmen Jefferson, & Keaton Jefferson; sister, Tabatha Thomas; brothers, Javeon Jefferson, Leran Jefferson, Jr., Dallas Shoemake, & Jobie Charlie; five aunts; two uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Welcome To



NANIH WAIYA INDIAN Mennonite Church

Preaching Every Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789 Philadelphia, MS 39350

Come Join Us...



Spirit of Life Christian Center

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

278 Black Jack Road Choctaw, MS 39350 601-389-5446

Pastor Thomas Ben

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COME JOIN US!! A GREAT PLACE FOR A SALE!!

Yard sales, fundraisers, food sales, or bake sales for individuals, organizations or ball teams.

Applications & guidelines can be picked up at the Office of Economic Development, or if you have any questions call Deesandra Ben at 601-650-1612.

D's NATIVE EDGE Barber Shop

202 Choctaw Town Center Choctaw, Mississippi

Business Hours

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Saturday 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Closed Wednesday & Sunday

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Heating & Air Conditioning Service



A&B Mechanical, Inc. P.O. Box 6003 Choctaw, MS 39350

(Office) 601-656-4818 (Fax) 601-656-4418

Allen Peoples, President/Owner, Chahta Owned & Operated

HALITO DOLLAR STORE

Choctaw Town Center Choctaw, MS

STORE HOURS

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Pearl River Insurance Agency

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300 Choctaw Town Center Suite 106 (Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)

HOURS: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Appointment Only

Happy Big ?? Birthday to Harold Sockey, Sr., from your family Dakota, Harold Jr., Theresa Sockey, & Monica. Have a Blessed Day.

Happy Birthday to Charles Wilson, Sr., on Oct. 31, 2016. From your family & bro "Arb" & "Luci."



LEFT, Congratulations to PFC Shawn Smith on completing Army basic training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, on Sept. 16, 2016. All of your friends & family from Conehatta, Pearl River & Dallas, Texas, are very proud of you!

Club Celebrates Heritage Month

Members of East Central Community College's Native American Club celebrated Native American Heritage Month on Sept. 22 on the college's Decatur campus. Club members played traditional music for spectators. The group also sold hominy, frybread & Indian tacos as a fundraiser for their club. ECCC librarians Leslie Hughes & Elizabeth Minter serve as club sponsors. (EC Photo)



CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

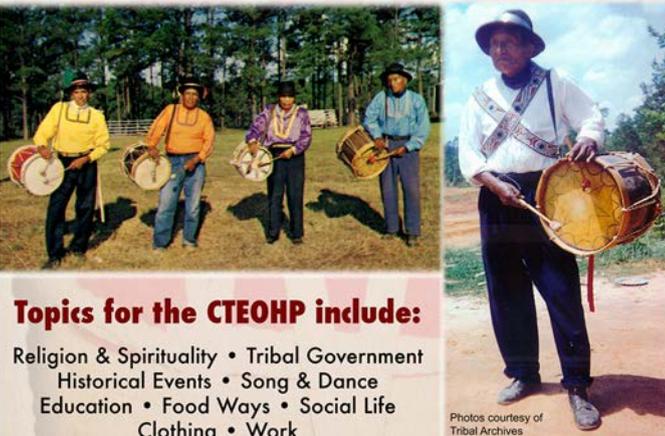
OCTOBER 2016

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ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

The CHOCTAW TRIBAL ELDER'S ORAL HISTORY PROJECT Needs Your Help!

We are seeking old photos, newspaper clippings, cultural artifacts, & memorabilia. These items will be used in unison with video interviews with Tribal elders who tell their life experiences through a cultural & traditional perspective. This project will cover a number of topics, & if you have any items pertinent to the project & would like to share, bring all items to the Department of Chahta Immi Special Projects/Media Program. All items will be copied & returned promptly back to you.



Topics for the CTEOHP include:

- Religion & Spirituality • Tribal Government
Historical Events • Song & Dance
Education • Food Ways • Social Life
Clothing • Work

Our Elders are our bridge to the past. Their words will make alive a way of life that our youth can learn about and preserve.

For more information, please contact: Special Projects/Media Program 601-663-7735

CTEOHP

Choctaw Tribal Elders Oral History Project
Capturing the History, Language, and Traditional Lifestyles of the MS Choctaws



Participants Have Fun At Choctaw Challenge

Dozens of area athletes participated in the 2016 Choctaw Challenge, a 5k mud run at Lake Pushmataha in Choctaw on Saturday, Oct. 29. The 3.1 mile rough terrain mud obstacle course was sponsored by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Mississippi State University Extension Service. Participants ran across the lake levee before heading into the wooded trail for a series of obstacles before coming back out and racing towards the finish line. Participants who pre-registered received an official T-shirt along with an information packet.